

*A true Relation of the Rise and Progress of the East-India Company, shewing how their Manufactures have been, are, and will be prejudicial, to the Manufactures of England; and what Endeavours have been used for and against any Restriction. Together with some Remarks thereon.*

**T**H E Goods Imported from the *East-Indies*, for several Years after the *East-India* Company was first Established, were Drugs, Spices, Salt-petre, &c. and some Course Callico's, which were most Exported again: The Members of that Company being then afraid to adventure on other Manufactured Goods, because they well knew they would prejudice our own, and raise a Storm against the Company, as they oftentimes declared.

The Charter of the *East-India* Company was Confirmed by King *Charles II.* in the Thirteenth Year of his Reign: and the Law for permitting Bullion to be Exported, was made soon after, at the Solicitation of that Company; and till then, little Silver or Gold was Exported. After that Law was made, begun the great Exportation of Bullion to *India*.

In *Anno* 72, or 73, several Artificers were sent over by the Company, with great quantities of English Patterns, to teach the *Indians* how to Manufacture Goods to make them Vendible in *England*, and the rest of the *European* Markets. After which began the great Trade in Manufactured Goods from the *Indies*.

This was complained of, and proved before several Lords appointed by King *Charles II.* in *Anno* 1680, or 81. Whereupon the Company received some discouragement; but finding great Gain by Wrought Silks, Bengals and Callico's, would not desist Trading in them: upon which great Complaints were made in Parliament, against the growth of the *East-India* Trade, which was grown so large, that about 500000 *l.* in Bullion, and but small quantities of our Manufactures were Yearly Exported; and vast quantities of Manufactured Goods Imported, for several Years before the War, which were most spent in *England*, and our Plantations, in the room of our own Manufactures, *viz.* their Wrought Silks, Bengals, Painted and Dyed Callico's, in the room of our Silks, Half Silks, Worsted Stuffs, Say's, Perpetuans, and divers other Commodities, not only for Vestments for both Sexes, but for Hanging of Rooms, Beds, &c.

But this was not all the Mischief these *Indian* Manufactures did us, for by our using *Muslings*, *Romalls*, and *Callico's*, they have beat out the Use of fine *German* Linnens, *Silesia* Cambricks, and *Lawns*, which we had in return of our own *Woollen* Cloth, &c. which Trade is now almost wholly lost: For the *Silesians*, when we would not take off their Linnens, could not take off our Cloth, but were compell'd, by Necessity, to Set up the making *Woollen* Manufactures, with which they now Supply both themselves and other Places, which heretofore we were wont to furnish, (and, as we are Credibly inform'd, in *Flanders* they are now about doing the same thing.)

By which means, the *E. India* Trade was encreas'd to a very great height, and their Manufactures in so great request, that they (from being a Scandal to be worn a few years before) soon became the general Wear of almost all sorts and degrees of Persons, while our own were neglected, and our Manufacturers thereby under great discouragements; being not able to carry on their Trades, many were forced to give over, whereby the Poor wanted Employment, the price of Wooll reduced very low, and great quantities of Wooll could not be Manufactured: Whereupon the Parliament thought it necessary to make a Law for *Burying in Woollen*, thereby to consume some of the Wooll that lay heavy upon the Growers Hands.

The *Indians* have Provisions and Materials very cheap, and Work for a Penny a Day; which disables us, and the rest of the *European* Traders, to contend with them: and for this reason, their Trade did encrease apace, until the late War; and unless restrain'd, will most certainly encrease, to the ruining of our best Fabricks, and the vast number of People that have their Livelihood and Dependance thereupon.

Since this late War, the *East-India* Company have laboured under some Discouragements, and but small quantities of their Manufactur'd Goods, in proportion to what they formerly brought in, were Imported; by reason whereof, great Encouragement was given to the Manufactures of Silk, Half Silk, and Worsted, which have been very much improv'd in a great variety of Figur'd, Strip'd, and other sort of Stuffs, which were made not only in *London*, *Norwich* and *Canterbury*, in much greater quantities than ever; but these Manufactures were spread to *Bristol*, *Newbury*, and divers other parts of the Kingdom, whereby greater numbers of Poor have been employ'd, and greater quantities of English Wooll consum'd; so that the Price of the Wooll advanc'd, and the Labour and Wages of the Poor encreas'd, which enabled them to live comfortably, and consume the Product of the Land, to the great Advantage of the Landlords and Tenants, and Benefit of the Nation in general.

From

cup 645 b 11



From *Anno 88* (for several Years) there were frequent complaints in Parliament against the *Old East-India Company*, and very ill things proved upon them; and extraordinary Clamours against the Trade being driven by a *Joynt-Stock*, exclusive of all others, by the same Men that are now some of the Directors of this *New*. And great indeavours were used, and, as some say, ill Practices, to obtain a new Charter from the King; and after they had obtained a Charter with great Industry, they solicited for an Establishment by Act of Parliament, and in *Anno 93*. a Bill was brought in, but did not pass.

In *Anno 95*. the *East-India Company* endeavour'd again to get a Settlement by Act of Parliament; whereupon, the Weavers of *London*, *Norwich*, *Canterbury*, and the Woollen Manufacturers in many other places, petitioned, That some Restraint might be laid upon the Importation or Consumption of these *Indian Manufactures*: Upon which, a Bill was brought in to Restrain the Wearing *Wrought Silks*, *Bengals*, and *Printed Callicoes*; which Bill was soon pass'd, almost unanimously in the House of Commons, but being strongly oppos'd by the *East-India Company*, and *Linnen-Drapers*, it was stop'd in the House of Lords.

The next Sessions, the Manufacturers again Petitioned, and the same Bill again brought in early in the Sessions; but by reason of more importunate business, it did not meet with so quick a dispatch as the poor *London Weavers* expected, (which were at that time in great distress for want of Employment) they grew uneasy, and by false rumours rais'd by those that were Enemies to the Bill, great multitudes of those poor People went to *Westminster* in a Tumultuous manner, to pray for the passing the Bill; which gave such disgust, (as in reason it must needs do) that several Members, who were friends to it before, were now against it: so that the Bill pass'd with some difficulty in their House, and was again stop'd in the House of Lords by a very small majority.

The chief Arguments used by the *East India Men* were, That though they Export great quantities of our Bullion, yet they bring in more by their Goods Exported. That it's the Interest of this Nation to wear *East India Goods*, because Cheap, and send our own to Foreign Markets, where they may be Sold to more Advantage. Both which Arguments were deny'd, and they were challenged to prove their Assertions, which to this day they have not done, and till they do, it's hop'd, their bare asseverations will not be taken for granted truths.

The Advocates for and against this Trade were very numerous at this time, and several other Reasons offer'd *Pro* and *Con*. For the *East-India Trade*, there was an Essay writ by a great Master of the English Style, who, with extraordinary Computations and Rhetorical flourishes, endeavour'd to represent this Trade Profitable to *England*; but his Computations, and Observations, being many of them not well grounded, several Answers were given thereunto; however the Discourse was admir'd, and did Service at that time. But the same Gentleman since treating on another Subject, has either altered his Opinion, or else unfortunately wrote something in a late Essay (on the probable methods of making a People Gainers in the Balance of Trade) that makes many Men think so.

The Ladies in general, shew'd a great aversion to this Bill, whether from a dislike taken at the Word *Restraining*, or from a strange delight for *far fetch'd and dear bought*, prefer the *Indian* before the *English Manufactures*, unless the Seller will solemnly declare they are *Indian* made, not considering how impossible it will be for their Rents to be paid, if the *English Manufactures* be ruin'd, which must be the necessary consequence of such unaccountable fancies; which if they did, we verily believe they would soon restrain their Aversion. And what force such Advocates had, we will not pretend to determine, but hope they'll now be Advocates for this Cause.

The beginning of the last Sessions, further Applications were made; and the Manufacturers apprehending that the Method propos'd by the former Bills would not fully Answer the Prohibition design'd, offer'd another Bill, by which all *Silks*, *Bengals* and *Callico's*, which were to be Prohibited being worn in *England*, should have been confin'd to certain Ware-Houses, and not thence removed till Exported; but this Method not being well understood, or judg'd reasonable, was oppos'd, and the Bill stop'd thereupon.

Towards the latter end of that Sessions, certain very rich *Merchants*, and others, propos'd to lend the Government two Millions, upon condition to have 8 per Cent. per Annum, and liberty to Trade to the *East-Indies* exclusive of all others: The Necessities of the Government for Money at that time, induced a compliance, and a Settlement of that Trade was made accordingly.

The *English Manufacturers*, with dejected Countenances and aking Hearts, beheld this mighty Structure, (which was rais'd by the help of some of their *Principal Pillars*) and foreseeing the dismal consequences, complain'd; but were told, 'Twas not then time, nor must they oppose or clogg the Bill, the two Millions being absolutely necessary for Supply of the Government; but were likewise told, That care should be taken of them. And the chief Promoters of the Bill, as Mr. *Samuel Shepherd*, Mr. *Heathcote*, and many others, declared at that time, to divers Members of Parliament, *London Weavers*, and others, That they were as sensible as they, or the *Weavers* could be, that the *Manufactur'd Silks*, *Bengals*, and *printed Callico's*, were very prejudicial and destructive to the *Manufactures of England*, and promis'd, with a great deal of seeming Sincerity, That they would very readily agree to any reasonable Restraint afterwards, but nothing must be then done, for fear of disturbing the Loan so necessary to be rais'd by that Bill.

The



The *Manufacturers* having all along shewed their *Zeal* for the Support of the present Government were from these Considerations induced to be quiet, and wait a more favourable juncture ; and the *London Weavers* were so allured with the fair Speeches, and charming Promises of these *New East-India Merchants*, that upon calling this *Parliament*, they thought none so fit for their Representatives as they ; so that by their Interest and Industry, two of the Principal Directors were very near carrying the Election for the City of *London*.

But now the Tables are turned, and the *New East-India Men* as zealously oppose all Restrictions as the *Old* ; and tho' they made shew of consenting to some Restraints, and some Meetings and Discourses were had thereupon, yet they never proceeded further, but lately neglected to meet several Members of *Parliament*, and others, at Time and Place agreed on by their own Appointment. By which practises they plainly shew, That all *East-India Traders* have the same Principals and Interest, to Support and Carry on.

This *New Company* being thus Settled, and the *Old* getting in for a considerable share, are now striving hard which shall Ride on the Fore-Horse, but both agreed to drive on to our Ruine, if not Restrained by the *Legislative Power* of the Nation : For, if when they had a Stock but of *Three hundred seventy two thousand Pounds*, and no Act of *Parliament* to Support them, they drove so great and pernicious a Trade as is herein before recited, what can any Rational Man think will be the consequence of a Stock of *Two Millions*, which is more than is used by all the *Manufacturers* of *England* ? The very prospect makes many, true Lovers of their Country, Hearts ake.

The great quantities of *East-India Manufactures* lately Imported, and the prospect of much greater in a very short time, has been the great occasion of the ruine of the *Canterbury Trade*, which is reduced in less than three Years time, above Seven Parts in Eight ; And have also necessitated most of the *London Silk-Weavers* to give over their Trades ; many of them are gone to *Ireland*, and other Foreign Parts ; and a great many of those left behind are fallen to *Comb, Card and Spin Wooll*, and make *Worsted Stuffs, Druggets, Says, Serges*, and almost all other sorts of our *Woollen Manufactures*, which have, and must of Necessity, hinder the *Weavers* and *Clothiers*, in the several Counties and Places where these Manufactures have been for a long time made. The sad Effects whereof are already so sensibly felt in the Cities of *Norwich* and *Canterbury*, that great multitudes are there out of Employment ; and being so, are reduced to great Necessities, and thereupon grown very uneasie and burdensome to those Cities and Neighbourhoods : And although the *East-India Advocates* pretend and insinuate, That the reason of the *London* and *Canterbury Weavers* leaving off, proceeds from the want of *Raw Silk*, which is now very scarce and dear ; this, tho' in some measure is allow'd to have lessen'd their Trade, yet the principal Cause proceeds from the *East-India Silks, Bengals, and fine painted Callico's* : For were they not brought in, and so generally worn here, the *Weavers* cou'd still very well have gone on with their Trades in *Slight Silks, Half Silks, and the like*. And that which adds still to their misfortune, is, That there has been (as we are told, and fear it's too true) above 600, 000 *l.* in less than Ten Months, sent to the *East Indies*, the Returns being most in *Manufactured Goods*, destroys their future hopes, unless some restraint be put upon the Expense of these *Indian Commodities*.

*This being the true State of the CASE,*

THE *Manufacturers* are therefore come again, to lay before the *Parliament* a Representation thereof, and hopesome regard will be had to the Preservation of the Manufactures of this Kingdom ; if not for their sakes, yet for the numerous *Poor* that have their dependance thereupon ; and for the *Landlords* and *Tenants*, whose Interests is also concern'd in this matter : For we think it will not admit of an Argument, to prove, That if the *Manufacturers* be discouraged and ruined, the *Owners* and *Farmers* must share in the misfortune : And that the *East-India Manufactures* worn in this Kingdom will do it, we think must be very plain and obvious to all that will seriously consider the Case, and that are not *East-India Merchants*, or otherwise concern'd in Interest, or misled by their sly Insinuations, or fallacious way of Argumentation. And for better Information of such, it's desired they would read the Observations of the *Admired Author* of the Essay on the *East-India Trade*, in his Essay upon the *Probable Methods of making a People Gainers by the Balance of Trade*, p. 128. And that part of an Essay on the State of *England*, in relation to its Trade, its *Poor*, and its Taxes, which relates to the *East-India Trade* (writ by Mr. *John Cary*) : And if these will not satisfy their doubts, there will very shortly be farther Answers given to all material Objections that have been raised against this Restriction ; and in the mean time, we humbly conceive our Case deserves the consideration of the *Parliament*, as well as either the *Old* or *New East-India Companies*, and Hope, and Pray, it may be considered accordingly.



*A short Abstract of the C A S E, with some Remarks thereupon.*

**T**hat for several Years, after the *East-India* Company was Establish'd, they were afraid to bring in Manufactured Goods, which they knew were very prejudicial to our own: But now, by their great Stock and Interest, they are got over these fears, and bring in vast quantities, opposing all kind of Restraint, tho' they are convinc'd, and have declared their Manufactures are prejudicial to this Kingdom.

That as their Manufactures increas'd, our own were discouraged, and *Wooll* reduced so low, that an Act was made for *Burying in Woollen*, and the Manufacturers at the same time reduced to great necessities, and many ruin'd thereby.

That during great part of the late War, the *East-India* Trade was under some Discouragement, and while it was so, our *English* Manufactures flourished very much, and extended to several Places, where before, the People were out of Employment, *Wool* advanced and bore a good Price, and all other Provisions rais'd proportionably.

That the *English* Manufacturers, finding the *East-India* Traders endeavouring to get an Establishment by Act of Parliament, and knowing how fatal it might prove to their Manufactures, unless they were in some measure restrain'd, made their Application to the Parliament, and in Two succeeding Sessions a Restraining Bill was past in their Favour in the House of Commons, and a Third being drawn up in a different Method to the Two former, was stopt thereupon.

That the Proposal of advancing Two Millions for the Supply of the Government, was the great Inducement for the Establishment of the New Company; and the Reasons the Manufacturers did not then so vigorously complain and sollicite against the Establishment, as formerly they had done, proceeded from the fair Promises given by the New *East-India* Men, and the Hope of a more favourable Opportunity; being unwilling to disturb the Loan so necessary then to be rais'd.

That the Manufacturers being deceived by these *East-India* Traders fair Promises, and finding that the late great Importation and Wear of their *Indian* Manufactures are increasing, and have already, in a great measure, ruin'd the *Canterbury* Trade, and obliged the *London* Weavers to fall upon all sorts of *Woollen* Manufactures, to the Prejudice (and may in a short time prove to the utter Ruin) of several Places where these Manufactures have for a long time been established are therefore come again to represent their deplorable Case, and pray the Consideration of this Parliament, and hope they will be pleased to consider it as well as either the *Old* or *New East-India* Companies Cases.

**L O N D O N:** Printed, and are to be Sold by *A. Baldwin* in  
*Warwick-Lane*, 1699.